General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 February 2014

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 37

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 November 2013

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/68/L.11 and Add.1)*]

68/11. The situation in Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/16 of 27 November 2012 and all its previous relevant resolutions,

Recalling also all relevant Security Council resolutions and statements by the President of the Council on the situation in Afghanistan, in particular resolutions 2096 (2013) of 19 March 2013 and 2120 (2013) of 10 October 2013,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and respecting its multicultural, multi-ethnic and historical heritage,

Recalling the long-term commitment of the international community to Afghanistan with the aim of strengthening national ownership and leadership consistent with the Kabul process, and taking into account the evolving nature of the presence of the international community,

Welcoming the conclusions of the International Afghanistan Conference on Afghanistan and the International Community: From Transition to the Transformation Decade, held in Bonn, Germany, on 5 December 2011,[1] in which it was declared that the process of transition, to be completed by the end of 2014, should be followed by a transformation decade (2015–2024) in which Afghanistan consolidates its sovereignty through strengthening a fully functioning, sustainable State in the service of its people,

Welcoming also the Tokyo Declaration: Partnership for Self-Reliance in Afghanistan — From Transition to Transformation adopted at the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan, held on 8 July 2012,[2] including the Tokyo Mutual Accountability

[1] A/66/597-S/2011/762, annex.

[2] A/66/867-S/2012/532, annex I.

Please recycle

Framework, [3] which reaffirms the partnership between the Government of Afghanistan and the international community based on their mutual commitments,

Recognizing once again the interconnected nature of the challenges in Afghanistan, reaffirming that sustainable progress on security, governance, human rights, the rule of law and development, as well as on the cross-cutting issues of counter-narcotics, anti-corruption and accountability, are mutually reinforcing and that governance and development programmes prioritized for implementation in transition should be consistent with the goals set forth in the Tokyo Declaration and the national priority programmes, and underlining the importance of the continuing efforts of the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to address these challenges,

Welcoming and supporting the outcome of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 2 November 2011, and the follow-up Heart of Asia Ministerial Conferences, held in Kabul on 14 June 2012 and in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 26 April 2013, which launched and furthered the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan[4] whereby Afghanistan and its regional partners, with the support of the international community, affirmed their commitment to strengthen regional security and cooperation for a secure and stable Afghanistan, including through enhanced regional dialogue and confidence-building measures, and looking forward to the fourth Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference, to be held in Tianjin, China, in 2014,

Stressing the crucial importance of advancing regional cooperation as an effective means of promoting security, stability and economic and social development in Afghanistan, recognizing in this regard the importance of the contribution of neighbouring and regional partners, as well as regional organizations, recalling the importance of the Kabul Declaration on Good-neighbourly Relations of 22 December 2002, [5] welcoming in this regard the continued commitment of the international community to support stability and development in Afghanistan, and noting international and regional initiatives, such as those of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan process, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Welcoming the process by which Afghanistan and its regional and international partners are entering into long-term strategic partnerships and other agreements aimed at achieving a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan,

Underlining the significance of the agreement reached between the Government of Afghanistan and countries contributing to the International Security Assistance Force at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit, held in Lisbon on 19 and 20 November 2010, to gradually transfer full security responsibility in Afghanistan to the Government countrywide by the end of 2014, welcoming the continued progress towards the completion of the security transition, notably the milestone reached on 18 June 2013 when all areas of Afghanistan entered into the transition process and the Afghan National Security Forces assumed the lead for

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] A/66/601-S/2011/767, annex.

[5] S/2002/1416, annex.

security nationwide, and underlining also the continuing role of the International Security Assistance Force in support of the Government and in promoting a responsible transition and the importance of the enhancement of the operational capabilities of the Afghan National Security Forces,

Welcoming the joint Chicago Summit Declaration on Afghanistan, which stresses the long-term commitment of countries contributing to the International Security Assistance Force, beyond 2014, to lasting peace, security and stability in Afghanistan, noting the responsibility of the Government of Afghanistan to sustain sufficient and capable Afghan National Security Forces, supported by the international community, welcoming in this context the decision of the international community, taken at the Bonn Conference, to support the training, equipping, financing, and development of the capacity of the Afghan National Security Forces beyond the end of the transition period, welcoming also the decision of the Government and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will work towards continuing to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Security Forces after 2014, and noting that any new mission should have a sound legal basis, as stated in paragraph 14 of the joint Chicago Summit Declaration,

Reiterating the urgent need to tackle the challenges in Afghanistan, in particular the ongoing violent criminal and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and criminals, including those involved in the narcotics trade, and the development of Government of Afghanistan institutions, including at the subnational level, the strengthening of the rule of law and democratic processes, the fight against corruption, the acceleration of justice sector reform, the promotion of national reconciliation, without prejudice to the fulfilment of the measures introduced by the Security Council in resolutions 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999, 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011) of 17 June 2011, and 2082 (2012) and 2083 (2012) of 17 December 2012 and other relevant resolutions, an Afghan-led transitional justice process, the safe and voluntary return of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons in an orderly and dignified manner, the promotion and protection of human rights and the advancement of economic and social development,

Deeply concerned about the high level of violence in Afghanistan, especially the number of civilian casualties, condemning in the strongest terms all violent attacks, recalling that the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups are responsible for the significant majority of the civilian casualties in Afghanistan, expressing particular serious concern about increased targeted killing of women and girls, and calling for compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law and for all appropriate measures to be taken to ensure the protection of civilians,

Noting the importance of the national Government being inclusive and representative of the ethnic diversity of the country and ensuring also the full and equal participation of women,

Recognizing that the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process of peace and reconciliation, supported by the international community, is essential for achieving long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan,

Emphasizing the central and impartial role of the United Nations in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan, expressing its appreciation and strong support for all efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Afghanistan

in this regard, expressing its appreciation also for the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in accordance with Security Council resolution 2096 (2013), and stressing the leading and coordinating role of the Assistance Mission in seeking to further improve the coherence and coordination of international civilian efforts, guided by the principle of reinforcing Afghan ownership and leadership,

Welcoming the reports of the Secretary-General[6] and the recommendations contained therein,

1. *Pledges its continued support* to the Government and people of Afghanistan as they rebuild a stable, secure, economically self-sufficient State, free of terrorism and narcotics, and strengthen the foundations of a constitutional democracy as a responsible member of the international community;

2. *Encourages* all partners to support constructively the Kabul process, building upon a deep and broad international partnership towards further increased Afghan responsibility and ownership in security, governance and development, aiming at a secure, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan, focusing on strengthening the constitutional checks and balances that guarantee citizens' rights and obligations and implementing structural reform to enable an accountable and effective Government to deliver concrete progress to its people;

3. *Supports* the continuing and growing ownership of reconstruction and development efforts by the Government of Afghanistan, emphasizes the crucial need to achieve ownership and accountability in all fields of governance and to improve institutional capabilities, including at the subnational level, in order to use aid more effectively, and underscores in this regard the importance of the commitments of the international community, as reiterated in the Tokyo Declaration: Partnership for Self-Reliance in Afghanistan — From Transition to Transformation;[2]

Security and transition

4. *Reiterates once again its serious concern* about the security situation in Afghanistan, stresses the need to continue to address the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan caused by the ongoing violent and terrorist activity by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and other illegal armed groups and criminals, including those involved in the narcotics trade, and reiterates in this regard its call for the full implementation of measures and the application of procedures introduced in relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 1267 (1999), 1988 (2011), 1989 (2011), 2082 (2012) and 2083 (2012);

5. *Condemns in the strongest terms* all unlawful acts of violence, intimidation and attacks, including improvised explosive device attacks, suicide attacks, assassinations, including of public figures, abductions, indiscriminate attacks against civilians, attacks against individuals, groups and organs of society engaged in the promotion and protection of universally recognized human rights, attacks against humanitarian workers and the targeting of Afghan and international forces, which have a deleterious effect on stabilization and development efforts in Afghanistan, and also condemns the use, by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups, of civilians as human shields;

[6] A/67/619-S/2012/907, A/67/778-S/2013/133, A/67/889-S/2013/350 and A/68/609-S/2013/535.

6. *Stresses* the need for the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to continue to work closely together in countering these acts, which are threatening peace and stability in Afghanistan and the democratic process, the achievements and continued implementation of the Afghanistan development process as well as humanitarian aid measures, and calls upon all Member States to deny those groups any form of sanctuary or financial, material and political support;

7. *Expresses deep regret* at the resulting loss of life and physical harm inflicted upon Afghan civilians and civilians of other nationalities, including the personnel of Afghan and international agencies and all other humanitarian workers and the diplomatic corps, the United Nations Assistance Mission, as well as upon the personnel of the Afghan National Security Forces, the International Security Assistance Force and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition, and pays homage to all those who have lost their lives;

8. *Stresses* the importance of providing the Afghan people with security, notes that the responsibility for providing security and law and order throughout the country resides with the Government of Afghanistan, supported by the international community, and underlines the importance of further strengthening the operational capabilities of Afghan security forces in all provinces of Afghanistan, consistent with the goal of transition;

9. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the progress in the transition process and the assumption of lead security responsibility by the Afghan National Security Forces nationwide with the milestone event of 18 June 2013, calls upon the international community to provide the support necessary to increase security, including public order, law enforcement, the security of Afghanistan's borders and the preservation of the constitutional rights of Afghan citizens, as well as to provide continued support by training, equipping and contributing to the financing of the Security Forces to take on the task of securing their country, with a clear view to the assumption, no later than 2024, of full financial responsibility for its own security forces by the Government of Afghanistan, and underscores the importance of the joint Chicago Summit Declaration on Afghanistan and other relevant agreements with regional and international partners in this regard;

10. *Also welcomes*, in this regard, the presence of the International Security Assistance Force and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition, expresses its appreciation for the support they have provided to the Afghan National Army, as well as for the assistance provided to the Afghan National Police by all international partners, in particular by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization through its training mission in Afghanistan, as well as other bilateral training programmes, and encourages further coordination where appropriate;

11. *Further welcomes* the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan, with a view to ensuring stability and providing conditions for the effective rule of law, to continue the implementation of the Afghan National Police Strategy and the National Police Plan underpinning it, as well as the 10-year vision presented by the Ministry of the Interior, focusing, inter alia, on community-based policing (*Police-e Mardumi*) to increase police accountability and responsiveness, strengthening crime detection and prevention, safeguarding human rights and combating violence against women and children to build a strong, professional police force evolving towards sustainable, credible and accountable civilian law enforcement that will be capable of providing policing services to the Afghan population as part of the broader rule of law system, with a focus on the ongoing institutional and

administrative reforms of the Ministry of the Interior, including the implementation of its anti-corruption action plan, and leadership development, as well as to progressively enhance the quality of the Afghan National Police, with the necessary continued financial and technical support of the international community, recognizes the significant contribution that has been made by international and regional partners, including the International Police Coordination Board, to achieve that aim, and also recognizes in this context the significant contribution of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to continue, and expresses its appreciation to Member States for, contributing personnel, equipment and other resources to the International Security Assistance Force and their adequate support to the provincial reconstruction teams and their changing mission, in close coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission;

13. *Notes*, in the context of the comprehensive approach and the ongoing transition process, the continued importance of the synergies in the objectives of the Assistance Mission and the International Security Assistance Force, and emphasizes, in particular, the continued need to maintain, strengthen and review civil-military relations among international actors, as appropriate, at all levels in order to ensure complementarity of action based on the different mandates and comparative advantages of the humanitarian, development, law enforcement and military actors present in Afghanistan;

14. *Urges* the Afghan authorities, with the support of the international community, to take all possible steps to ensure the safety, security and free movement of all United Nations, development and humanitarian personnel and their full, safe and unhindered access to all affected populations, and to protect the property of the United Nations and of development or humanitarian organizations, and notes the efforts made in regulating private security contractors operating in Afghanistan;

15. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Afghan authorities, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/123 of 15 December 2005 on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, to bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks, and calls upon the Afghan authorities to continue its efforts in this regard;

16. *Remains deeply concerned* about the persistent problem of anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war, which constitute a great danger to the population and a major obstacle to the resumption of social and economic activities and to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, early recovery and reconstruction efforts, welcomes the achievements to date in the implementation of the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan, underscores the importance of sustained international assistance for the implementation of the 10-year operational workplan of the Mine Action Programme, aimed at declaring Afghanistan mine-free by 2023, encourages the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of the United Nations and all relevant actors, to continue its efforts to meet its responsibilities under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,[7] to eliminate all known or new stock of anti-personal landmines, and to cooperate fully with the Mine Action

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2056, No. 35597.

Programme, and to continue removal of anti-personnel landmines, anti-vehicle landmines and explosive remnants of war, and expresses the need to provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation, and economic and social reintegration of victims, including persons with disabilities;

Peace, reconciliation and reintegration

17. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to advance peace and reconciliation, including by the High Peace Council, and the implementation of the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme to promote an inclusive, Afghan-led dialogue on reconciliation and political participation, as set forth in the 20 July 2010 Kabul Conference communiqué on dialogue for all those who renounce violence, have no links to international terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaida, respect the Constitution, including its human rights provisions, notably the rights of women, and are willing to join in building a peaceful Afghanistan, and further elaborated in the Bonn Conference conclusions,[1] supported by the Government and the international community, with full respect for the implementation of measures and application of the procedures introduced by the Security Council in its resolutions 1267 (1999), 1988 (2011) and 2082 (2012), as well as other relevant resolutions of the Council, calls upon all relevant States, especially neighbouring countries, and international organizations to remain engaged in the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process, and recognizes the impact terrorist attacks have on the Afghan people and risk having on future prospects for a peace settlement;

18. *Reiterates its firm commitment* to support the Government of Afghanistan in its efforts to advance the peace and reconciliation process, in line with the Kabul Conference communiqué and the Bonn Conference conclusions, and within the framework of the Afghan Constitution and the application of the procedures introduced by the Security Council in its resolutions 1988 (2011) and 2082 (2012) as well as other relevant resolutions of the Council, and recalls that women play a vital role in the peace process, as recognized by the Council in its resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and in related resolutions, including Council resolution 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013;

19. *Underlines* the fact that reconciliation and reintegration efforts should enjoy the support and participation of all Afghans, including civil society, minorities and women's groups, as reinforced most recently in the Bonn Conference conclusions and the Tokyo Declaration, welcomes the steps taken towards greater cooperation between the High Peace Council and civil society, and encourages further cooperation in the future;

20. *Expresses its appreciation* for the progress made by the Government of Afghanistan in the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme in reintegrating former combatants throughout the country and under Afghan ownership, while ensuring coordination and coherence with other relevant efforts, welcomes the continued commitment and efforts of the Government to work actively at the national, provincial and local levels to advance this commitment, and calls for continued international support for these efforts;

21. *Calls upon* the Government of Afghanistan to ensure that the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme is implemented in an inclusive manner, regardless of gender or social status and consistent with the Afghan Constitution and the international legal obligations of Afghanistan, while upholding the human rights of all Afghans and countering impunity;

22. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Peace and Reintegration Trust Fund, recalls the respective commitments made at the London and Kabul Conferences, and encourages the international community to assist the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in this regard, including through continued support and contributions to the Trust Fund;

23. *Recognizes* the increased number of reintegrees who have joined the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme, encourages further efforts to address remaining operational challenges, including through an appropriate vetting mechanism and by ensuring that this work is linked to wider efforts to address conflict and grievance resolution at the local level, and also encourages the international community to support this Afghan-led effort;

Governance, rule of law and human rights

24. *Emphasizes* that good governance, the rule of law and human rights form the foundation for the achievement of a stable and prosperous Afghanistan, and notes the importance of building the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to promote and protect human rights, the rule of law and good governance in an accountable and effective manner;

A. Democracy

25. *Recognizes* the importance of holding free, fair, transparent, credible, secure and inclusive elections as crucial steps towards consolidating democracy for all Afghans and facilitating a successful and peaceful political transition and for sustaining international support, stresses the responsibility of the Afghan authorities in this regard, also stresses the need for the timely and orderly preparation of elections according to the timetable presented by the Independent Electoral Commission for the upcoming presidential and provincial elections, welcomes in this regard the adoption of a legal framework to govern elections, the appointment of new members and the election of new Chairs for the Independent Electoral Commission and Electoral Complaints Commission, calls upon the Government of Afghanistan to continue its preparations, welcomes the efforts made by the Government in this regard, calls upon the international community to continue to provide financial and technical assistance, stresses the leading role of the Assistance Mission in coordinating these efforts, and calls upon the international community and the United Nations to support the Government and the relevant Afghan institutions;

26. *Recalls* the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan, reiterated at the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan, to strengthen and improve Afghanistan's electoral process, including through long-term electoral reform, and to promote the participation of women in order to ensure that future elections will be transparent, credible, inclusive and democratic, and reaffirms the profound importance of the forthcoming elections and that Afghanistan's peaceful future lies in strengthened and transparent democratic institutions, respect for the separation of powers, reinforced constitutional checks and balances and the guarantee and enforcement of citizens' rights and obligations;

B. Justice

27. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Government of Afghanistan on justice sector reform and the commitment to improve access to the delivery of justice throughout Afghanistan made by the Government at the Kabul Conference,

welcomes in this regard the completion of the National Priority Programme on Law and Justice for All, urges the international community to continue to support the efforts of the Government in those areas in a coordinated manner, and urges the Government to implement the National Priority Programme in a timely manner, in coordination with the relevant organizations and Government departments;

28. *Acknowledges* the progress made by the Government of Afghanistan and the international community in devoting adequate resources to the reconstruction and reform of the prison sector in order to improve respect for the rule of law and human rights therein, while reducing physical and mental health risks to inmates;

29. *Welcomes and encourages* further efforts by the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of the Assistance Mission, the international community and other partners, including the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, to protect and promote the human rights of all detainees and prevent violations thereof in all Afghan prisons and detention facilities, consistent with the Afghan Constitution, Afghan laws and international obligations, welcomes the cooperation of the Government, as well as the efforts of the international community to provide support in this regard, takes note of the recommendations contained in the reports of the Assistance Mission of 10 October 2011 and 20 January 2013, notes the progress made in this regard, including the establishment by the Government of a commission to investigate Afghan detention facilities, encourages further progress on addressing allegations of human rights abuses of detainees, and reiterates the importance of respecting the rule of law and established legal processes and procedures;

30. *Welcomes* the commitment by the Government of Afghanistan to provide unimpeded access for relevant organizations to all prisons in Afghanistan, emphasizes the importance of ensuring access for relevant organizations, and calls for full respect for relevant international law, including humanitarian law and human rights law, where applicable, including with regard to minors, if detained;

C. Public administration

31. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan to continue to effectively reform the public administration sector in order to implement the rule of law and to ensure good governance and accountability, in accordance with the Kabul process and the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework,[3] at both the national and subnational levels, with the support of the international community, welcomes the efforts of the Government and commitments made, most recently at the Tokyo Conference, in this regard stresses the importance of transparent appointment and promotion procedures for civil servants, and continues to encourage the Government to make active use of the Senior Appointments Panel;

32. *Encourages* the international community, including all donor nations as well as international institutions and organizations, governmental and non-governmental, to assist the Government of Afghanistan in making capacity-building and human resources development a cross-cutting priority and to align, in a coordinated manner, with efforts by the Government, including the work of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission, to build administrative capacity at the national and subnational levels;

33. *Reiterates* the importance of institution-building in complementing and contributing to the development of an economy characterized by sound macroeconomic policies, the development of a financial sector that provides

services, inter alia, to microenterprises, small and medium-sized enterprises and households, transparent business regulations and accountability, and emphasizes the connection between generating economic growth, including through infrastructural projects, and the creation of job opportunities in Afghanistan;

34. *Recalls* the ratification by Afghanistan of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[8] reiterates its appreciation for the anti-corruption commitments made by the Government of Afghanistan at the Tokyo Conference, calls for decisive action by the Government to fulfil those commitments in order to establish a more effective, accountable and transparent administration at the national, provincial and local levels of government, welcomes the efforts of the Government in this regard, including the issuance of the presidential decree in July 2012, and also welcomes continued international support for Afghanistan's governance objectives, while noting with deep concern the effects of corruption with regard to security, good governance, the combating of the narcotics industry and economic development;

35. *Welcomes* the Subnational Governance Policy, underscores the importance of more visible, accountable and capable subnational institutions and actors in reducing the political space for insurgents, emphasizes the importance of the Kabul process being accompanied by the implementation of national programmes at the subnational level, encourages the capacity-building and empowerment of local institutions in a phased and fiscally sustainable manner, and calls for the predictable and regular allocation of more resources to provincial authorities, including continued vital support from the Assistance Mission and the international community;

36. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan to address, with the assistance of the international community, the question of claims for land property through a comprehensive land-titling programme, including formal registration of all property and improved security of property rights, including for women, and welcomes the steps already taken by the Government in this regard;

D. Human rights

37. *Recalls* the constitutional guarantee of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Afghans as a significant political achievement, calls for full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, without discrimination of any kind, and stresses the need to fully implement the human rights provisions of the Afghan Constitution, in accordance with obligations under applicable international law, in particular those regarding the full enjoyment by women and children of their human rights;

38. *Acknowledges and encourages* the efforts made by the Government of Afghanistan in promoting respect for human rights, expresses its concern at the harmful consequences of violent and terrorist activities, including against persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and other illegal armed groups and criminals for the enjoyment of human rights and for the capacity of the Government to ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Afghans, notes with concern reports of incidents in which violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law have occurred, including violations committed against women and children, in

[8] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

particular girls, stresses the need to further promote tolerance and religious freedom and to ensure respect for the right to freedom of expression and the right to freedom of thought, conscience or belief as enshrined in the Afghan Constitution, emphasizes the necessity of investigating allegations of current and past violations, stresses the importance of facilitating the provision of efficient and effective remedies to the victims and of bringing the perpetrators to justice in accordance with national and international law, calls for full implementation of the mass media law, while noting with concern and condemning the continuing intimidation and violence targeting Afghan journalists, such as cases of abduction and even killing of journalists by terrorist as well as extremist and criminal groups, and urges that harassment and attacks on journalists be investigated by Afghan authorities and that those responsible be brought to justice;

39. *Commends* the Government of Afghanistan for its active participation in the universal periodic review process, calls for continued active participation of Afghan civil society in this process, and encourages the timely implementation of the recommendations addressed in the relevant report;

40. *Reiterates* the important role of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, stresses the need to guarantee its constitutional status and implement its mandate, focusing on communities across Afghanistan, so as to foster a more informed public and increase Government accountability, notes the initial concerns of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with respect to the new appointments to the Commission, emphasizes the importance of the Government of Afghanistan's reaffirmation of its commitment to maintaining the standards regarding Human Rights Commissioners in accordance with article 11 of the law on the Commission and the Paris Principles[9] to retaining the Commission's "A" status, welcomes the decision of the Government to take full responsibility for the core funding of the Commission, urges the Government to implement this decision, urges the Commission to cooperate closely with Afghan civil society, and calls upon the international community for continued support in this regard;

41. *Recalls* Security Council resolutions 1674 (2006) of 28 April 2006, 1738 (2006) of 23 December 2006 and 1894 (2009) of 11 November 2009 and the midyear report of July 2013 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, prepared by the Assistance Mission, expresses its serious concern at the continued high number of civilian casualties, including women and children, and their impact on local communities, notes that the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups remain responsible for the significant majority of civilian casualties, reiterates its call for all feasible steps to be taken to ensure the protection of civilians, and calls for additional appropriate steps in this regard and for full compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law;

42. *Recognizes* the further progress made by the International Security Assistance Force, authorized by the Security Council, and other international forces to ensure the protection of the civilian population and to minimize civilian casualties, and calls upon them to continue to make enhanced efforts in this regard, notably through the continuous review of tactics and procedures and the conduct of afteraction reviews and investigations in cooperation with the Government of

[9] Resolution 48/134, annex.

Afghanistan in cases where civilian casualties have occurred and when the Government finds these joint investigations appropriate;

43. *Reiterates* the importance of upholding international obligations for the advancement of women's rights, as enshrined in the Afghan Constitution, in this context also reiterates the importance of implementing Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and recalls Council resolutions 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 and 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010 on women and peace and security;

44. *Emphasizes* its steadfast and unwavering commitment to achieving the full and equal participation of women in all spheres of Afghan life, the need for absolute equality of women before the law, equal access to education and employment and the participation and empowerment of women in Afghan politics, public life, government administration and security sector at all levels, especially in leadership positions;

45. *Commends* the achievements and efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to counter discrimination and to mainstream gender issues, including into the national priority programmes, and to protect and promote the equal rights of women and men as guaranteed, inter alia, by its ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[10] and by the Afghan Constitution as well as the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan and the law on the elimination of violence against women, notes the progress reported by the Assistance Mission in the implementation of the law, stresses the importance of its full implementation, a key commitment under the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, and underlines the need for continued progress on gender issues in accordance with the obligations of Afghanistan under international law;

46. *Strongly condemns* all incidents of discrimination and violence against women and girls and other forms of gender-based and sexual violence, including "honour killings", underscores the importance of countering impunity for these incidents, especially against women activists and women prominent in public life, takes note of the important progress made by the Government of Afghanistan in this regard, and reiterates its appreciation for all measures taken to address targeted violence against women, including the contribution of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women);

47. *Stresses* the need to ensure respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of children in Afghanistan, and recalls the need for the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[11] its Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography[12] and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict[13] by all States parties, as well as of Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, and all other subsequent resolutions on children and armed conflict, and takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Afghanistan[14] and the

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[11] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[12] Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531.

[13] Ibid., vol. 2173, No. 27531.

[14] A/67/845-S/2013/245, paras. 23–34.

conclusions of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict;[15]

48. *Expresses its strong concern*, in this regard, about the ongoing recruitment and use of children by illegal armed and terrorist groups in Afghanistan, as well as the killing and maiming of children as a result of the conflict, stresses in this regard the importance of ending the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law and all other violations and abuses committed against children, expresses appreciation for the progress made by and the firm commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to the protection of children, including its strong condemnation of any exploitation of children, as indicated by the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee for the Protection of the Rights of Children, the appointment of a focal point on child protection, the signing by the Government, in January 2011, of an action plan, including the annexes thereto, on children associated with national security forces in Afghanistan and the endorsement by the Government of a road map to accelerate compliance with the action plan, welcomes progress made in the implementation of the action plan, and calls for the full implementation of its provisions, in close cooperation with the Assistance Mission;

49. *Recognizes* the special needs of girls, strongly condemns continued terrorist attacks as well as threats of attacks on educational facilities, especially on those for Afghan girls, and/or hospitals and protected persons in relation to them in Afghanistan, in contravention of applicable international law, and expresses deep concern about the high number of school closures as a result of terrorist attacks or threats of attacks;

50. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Government of Afghanistan of the National Plan of Action on Combating Child Trafficking, calls for the comprehensive implementation of the Plan of Action, welcomes initiatives to amend and enforce legislation on human trafficking, guided by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[16] and stresses the importance of considering becoming a party to the Protocol;

Social and economic development

51. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and the ideas outlined by the Government of Afghanistan in its strategy document entitled "Towards self-reliance: strategic vision for the transformation decade", as well as of the national priority programmes contained therein, with their focus on economic growth, revenue generation, job creation, governance and human development;

52. *Urgently appeals* to all States, the United Nations system and international and non-governmental organizations, including the international and regional financial institutions, to continue to provide, in close coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and in accordance with the National Development Strategy and the strategy document entitled "Towards self-reliance: strategic vision for the transformation decade", as well as the national priority programmes

[15] S/AC.51/2011/3.

[16] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

contained therein, all possible and necessary humanitarian, recovery, reconstruction, development, financial, educational, technical and material assistance for Afghanistan, underlines the crucial importance of continued and sequenced implementation of the national priority programmes and the development and governance goals of the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, and recalls in this regard the leading role of the Assistance Mission in seeking to further improve the coherence and coordination of international efforts;

53. *Recognizes* the substantial development and the notable progress made by Afghanistan with the steadfast support of the international community in the past years, expresses its support for the decision taken at the Bonn Conference to implement a transformation decade (2015–2024), in which Afghanistan will consolidate its sovereignty through strengthening a fully functioning, sustainable State in the service of its people, and urges the Government of Afghanistan to involve all elements of Afghan society, in particular women, in the development and implementation of relief, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction programmes;

54. *Also recognizes* the challenges that lie ahead for Afghanistan, and welcomes the generous pledges totalling over 16 billion United States dollars made by the international community during the Tokyo Conference through 2015 and the commitment of the international community to sustain support through 2017 at or near levels of the past decade, thereby renewing its commitment to long-term support for the economic development of Afghanistan on the basis of mutual accountability, welcomes the continued resolve of the Government of Afghanistan to fulfil the commitments made by the Government under the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, and stresses that sustained international support in the years ahead requires resolute action by both the international community and the Government;

55. *Welcomes* the continued progress in implementing the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework and the monitoring mechanism included therein, in which the Government of Afghanistan reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen governance, grounded in human rights, the rule of law and adherence to the Afghan Constitution, and held it as integral to sustained growth and economic development, and in which the international community committed to enhance efficiency of development aid by aligning assistance with the Afghan national priority programmes and by channelling assistance through the national budget of the Government, as outlined in the Tokyo Declaration;

56. *Also welcomes* the outcome of the Senior Officials Meeting of the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, held in Kabul on 3 July 2013, and the Co-Chairs' statement thereon, which acknowledged both the achievements of the Government of Afghanistan and the international community in the implementation of their respective commitments under the Framework and the need for more rapid progress within a realistic but accelerated time frame, and looks forward to further meetings, including the meeting of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board and the next ministerial meeting in 2014, to be co-chaired by the Governments of Afghanistan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to review progress of the implementation of the Framework;

57. *Further welcomes* the significant progress made by the Government of Afghanistan towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the considerable progress in enabling boys and girls to enrol in school and in enabling women and men to access basic health services, and acknowledges that quality

improvements across basic service delivery will require attention and adequate national budget allocations;

58. *Expresses its appreciation* for the humanitarian and development assistance work of the international community in the stabilization and development of Afghanistan and to the United Nations system and to all States and international and non-governmental organizations whose international and local staff continue to respond positively to the humanitarian, transition and development needs of Afghanistan, despite security concerns and difficulty of access in certain areas;

59. *Recognizes* the necessity for further improvement in the living conditions of the Afghan people, and emphasizes the need to strengthen and support the development of the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to deliver basic social services at the national, provincial and local levels, in particular education and public health services, and to promote development;

60. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan to enhance efforts to reform key service delivery sectors, such as energy and drinking water supply, as preconditions for progress in social and economic development;

61. *Commends* the Government of Afghanistan for improving budgetary transparency and for its efforts to date to reach fiscal sustainability, notes the challenges ahead, and urges continued efforts be made to meet revenue targets, as agreed with the International Monetary Fund;

62. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the provincial reconstruction teams as they work within the provincial context to support national priorities to build the capacities of local institutions;

63. *Encourages* the international community and the corporate sector to support the Afghan economy as a measure for long-term stability and to explore possibilities for increased trade and investments and enhanced local procurement, and further encourages the Government of Afghanistan to continue to promote an economic environment and legal framework favourable for private-sector investments at both the national and subnational levels;

64. *Emphasizes*, in this regard, the importance of strengthening local and regional networks of transportation that will facilitate connectivity for economic development, stability and self-sustainability, particularly the completion and maintenance of local railroad and land routes, the development of regional projects to foster further connectivity and the enhancement of international civil aviation capabilities;

65. *Urgently encourages* all States as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to expand agricultural cooperation with Afghanistan, within the National Agricultural Development Framework and in line with the National Development Strategy and the relevant national priority programme, respectively, with a view to helping to eradicate poverty and ensure social and economic development, including in rural communities;

66. *Reiterates* the necessity of providing Afghan children, especially Afghan girls, with educational and health facilities in all parts of the country, welcomes the progress achieved in the sector of public education, recalls the National Education Strategic Plan as a promising basis for further achievements, encourages the Government of Afghanistan, with the assistance of the international community, to expand those facilities, train professional staff and promote full and equal access to

them by all members of Afghan society, including in remote areas, and reiterates further the need to provide vocational training for adolescents;

67. *Commends* the relief efforts by the Government of Afghanistan and donors, but continues to express its concern at the overall humanitarian situation, stresses the continued need for food assistance, ensuring that the basic needs of internally displaced persons are met, and calls for continued international support in this regard, as well as for the early fulfilment, before the approaching winter, of the urgent humanitarian needs in the 2013 Common Humanitarian Action Plan for Afghanistan;

68. *Recognizes* that underdevelopment and lack of capacity increase the vulnerability of Afghanistan to natural disasters and to harsh climate conditions, and in this regard urges the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of the international community, to increase its efforts aimed at strengthening disaster risk reduction at the national and subnational levels and at modernizing the agricultural sector and strengthening its agricultural production, thereby reducing the vulnerability of Afghanistan to adverse external conditions such as drought, flooding and other natural disasters;

69. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments that continue to host Afghan refugees, in particular Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, acknowledging the huge burden they have so far shouldered in this regard, and asks for continued generous support by the international community, with a view to facilitating their voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return, rehabilitation and reintegration;

70. *Welcomes* the outcome of the International Conference on the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to Support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Countries, held in Geneva on 2 and 3 May 2012, and looks forward to the further implementation of the joint communiqué of the Conference, aimed at increased sustainability of returns and continued support for host countries, through the sustained support and the directed efforts of the international community;

71. *Reiterates* to host countries and the international community the obligations under international refugee law with respect to the protection of refugees, the principle of voluntary return and the right to seek asylum and to ensure full, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian relief agencies in order to provide protection and assistance to the refugees, and calls upon countries to continue to accept an appropriate number of Afghan refugees for resettlement, as a manifestation of their shared responsibility and solidarity;

72. *Welcomes* the continued return of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons, in a voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable manner, while noting with concern that conditions in parts of Afghanistan are not yet conducive to a safe and sustainable return to some places of origin;

73. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan, acting with the support of the international community, to continue to strengthen its efforts to create the conditions for sustainable return by continuing to strengthen its absorption capacity for the full rehabilitation and reintegration of the remaining Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons;

74. *Notes*, in this regard, the continued constructive work between the countries of the region, as well as the tripartite and quadripartite agreements

between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Government of Afghanistan and the Governments of countries hosting refugees from Afghanistan, in particular Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran;

Regional cooperation

75. *Stresses* the crucial importance of advancing constructive regional cooperation as an effective means to promote peace, security, stability and economic and social development in Afghanistan, encourages further improved relations and enhanced engagement between Afghanistan and its neighbours, and calls for further efforts in this regard, including by regional organizations;

76. *Commends* the continuing efforts of the signatories to the Kabul Declaration on Good-neighbourly Relations[5] to implement their commitments under the Declaration, calls upon all other States to respect and support the implementation of those provisions, and welcomes the reaffirmation, in the Kabul Conference communiqué, of the principles set out in the Declaration;

77. *Welcomes and encourages* further efforts by the Government of Afghanistan and its neighbouring partners to foster trust and cooperation with each other, and looks forward, where appropriate, to increasing cooperation between Afghanistan, all its neighbouring and regional partners and regional organizations against the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist and criminal groups and illegal armed groups and in promoting peace and prosperity in Afghanistan, in the region and beyond;

78. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Government of Afghanistan, its neighbouring and regional partners and international organizations, including the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, to foster trust and cooperation with each other, as well as recent cooperation initiatives developed by the countries concerned and by regional organizations, including the trilateral summit of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey, the trilateral summit of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan and the trilateral summit of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United Kingdom;

79. *Reaffirms* support to the ongoing Afghan-led regional effort within the framework of the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan,[4] welcomes the outcomes of the Heart of Asia Ministerial Conferences held in Kabul and Almaty in 2012 and in 2013, respectively, as follow-up to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia, held in Istanbul in 2011, and the Istanbul Process Senior Officials Meeting held in New York on 23 September 2013, welcomes the adoption of the implementation plans of all six confidence-building measures in the areas of disaster management, counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, regional infrastructure, and trade, commerce and investment opportunities as well as education, prioritized for implementation, commends the progress of the Istanbul Process since its inception, looks forward to the fourth Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference to be held in Tianjin, notes with appreciation efforts to enhance regional dialogue and confidence through the Istanbul Process, and recalls that the Istanbul Process is intended to complement and cooperate with, and not substitute for, existing efforts of regional organizations, particularly where they relate to Afghanistan;

80. *Expresses its appreciation* for all efforts to increase regional economic cooperation aimed at promoting economic cooperation between Afghanistan, regional neighbours, international partners and financial institutions, and recognizes, inter alia, the important role of the Regional Economic Cooperation

Conference on Afghanistan, the Delhi Investment Summit on Afghanistan and its recommendations for promoting foreign investment and private sector development and partnerships of Afghanistan, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation Programme and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, as well as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in promoting the development of Afghanistan;

81. *Welcomes* the decision of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to grant Afghanistan observer status in the Organization;

82. *Welcomes and urges* further efforts to strengthen the process of regional economic cooperation, including measures to facilitate regional trade and transit, including through regional and bilateral transit trade agreements, expanded consular visa cooperation and facilitation of business travel, to expand trade, to increase foreign investments and to develop infrastructure, including infrastructural connectivity, energy supply, transport and integrated border management, with a view to promoting sustainable economic growth and the creation of jobs in Afghanistan, noting the historical role of Afghanistan as a land bridge in Asia;

83. *Encourages* the Group of Eight countries to continue to stimulate and support cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbours through mutual consultation and agreement, including on development projects in areas such as infrastructural connectivity, border management and economic development;

Counter-narcotics

84. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in fighting drug production in Afghanistan, takes note of the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled "Afghanistan Opium Survey 2012", released in May 2013, reiterates its deep concern about the increase in the cultivation and production of illicit narcotic drugs in Afghanistan, mainly concentrated in areas where the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and criminals are particularly active, as well as the ongoing drug trafficking, and, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, stresses the need for strengthened joint, more coordinated and resolute efforts by the Government, supported by the international and regional actors as well as the International Security Assistance Force, within their designated responsibilities, to fight this menace;

85. *Stresses* the importance of a comprehensive and balanced approach in addressing the drug problem of Afghanistan, which, to be effective, must be integrated into the wider context of efforts carried out in the areas of security, governance, the rule of law and human rights, and economic and social development;

86. *Also stresses*, in this regard, that the development of alternative livelihood programmes is of key importance in the success of the counter-narcotics efforts in Afghanistan and that sustainable strategies require international cooperation, and urges the Government of Afghanistan, assisted by the international community, to promote the development of sustainable livelihoods in the formal production sector, as well as in other sectors, and to improve access to reasonable and sustainable credit and financing in rural areas, thus improving substantially the lives, health and security of the people, particularly in rural areas;

87. *Notes with great concern* the strong nexus between the drug trade and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and criminal groups, which pose a serious threat to security, the rule of law and

development in Afghanistan, and stresses the importance of the full implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions in this regard, including resolutions 1735 (2006) of 22 December 2006 and 1822 (2008) of 30 June 2008;

88. *Calls upon* all Member States, in this regard, to further intensify their efforts to reduce the demand for drugs in their respective countries and globally in order to contribute to the sustainability of the elimination of illicit cultivation in Afghanistan;

89. *Stresses* the need to prevent trafficking in and diversion of chemical precursors used in the illicit manufacturing of drugs in Afghanistan, and calls for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1817 (2008) of 11 June 2008 in this regard;

90. *Supports* the fight against the illicit trafficking in drugs from and precursors to Afghanistan and neighbouring States and countries along trafficking routes, including increased cooperation among them in strengthening anti-narcotic controls and the monitoring of the international trade in chemical precursors, and underlines the importance of technical assistance and support to the most affected transit States to support their capacities in this regard;

91. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan, supported by the international community, to work to mainstream counter-narcotics throughout all the national programmes and to ensure that counter-narcotics is a fundamental part of the comprehensive approach, as well as to increase its efforts against opium cultivation and drug trafficking in accordance with the balanced plan of the updated Afghan National Drug Control Strategy;

92. *Commends* the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in this regard, as well as the efforts to update and carry out the National Drug Control Strategy, including the Prioritized Implementation Plan and benchmarks, urges the Government and the international community to take decisive action, in particular to stop the processing of and trade in drugs, by pursuing the concrete steps set out in the Strategy and through initiatives such as the Good Performers Initiative established to provide incentives for governors to reduce cultivation in their provinces, and encourages the Afghan authorities to work at the provincial level on elaborating counter-narcotics implementation plans;

93. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to assist the Government of Afghanistan in implementing its National Drug Control Strategy, aimed at eliminating the cultivation, production, trafficking in and consumption of illicit drugs, including through increased support for Afghan law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, agricultural and rural development for the creation of alternative livelihoods for farmers, demand reduction, the elimination of illicit crops, increased public awareness and the building of the capacity of drug control institutions and care and treatment centres for drug addicts, and reiterates its call upon the international community to channel counter-narcotics funding through the Government, to the extent possible;

94. *Recalls* the need to strengthen international and regional cooperation with Afghanistan in its sustained efforts to address drug production and trafficking, recognizes the threat posed by the production, trade and trafficking in illicit drugs to international peace and stability in the region and beyond, also recognizes the progress achieved by relevant initiatives within the framework of the Paris Pact initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, stresses the importance of further progress in the implementation of these initiatives, and welcomes the

results of the ministerial meeting of the Paris Pact initiative, held in Vienna on 16 February 2012, in continuation of the "Paris-Moscow" process, as one of the most important frameworks in the fight against opiates, underscores the importance of the effective implementation of the Vienna Declaration[17] by its partner countries, working in consultation with the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, encourages further sustained efforts of the Government in this regard, as well as the intent of the Government to strengthen international and regional cooperation in this regard, and welcomes the progress made in the Heart of Asia process in this regard;

95. *Welcomes* initiatives to enhance border management cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbours in ensuring comprehensive measures for drug control, including the financial dimension, emphasizes the importance of pursuing such cooperation, especially through bilateral arrangements and those launched by the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Central Asian Anti-Drug Quartet and others, and welcomes the intention of the Government of Afghanistan to strengthen international and regional cooperation with relevant partners in the field of border control;

96. *Stresses* the importance of further, effective cooperative support by relevant international and regional actors, including the United Nations and the International Security Assistance Force, within its designated responsibilities, to Afghan-led sustained efforts to address the threat posed by the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs, welcomes in this regard the regional programme on Afghanistan and neighbouring countries of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and encourages the respective countries to continue to participate;

97. *Acknowledges* the regional activities carried out by Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan within the framework of their triangular initiative to counter narcotics;

98. *Stresses* the need for coordinated regional efforts to combat the drug problem, and in this regard welcomes the holding of the Regional Ministerial Conference on Counter-Narcotics in Islamabad on 12 and 13 November 2012, aimed at enhancing regional cooperation to counter narcotics;

99. *Pays homage* to all those who have innocently lost their lives in the fight against drug traffickers, in particular members of the security forces of Afghanistan and its neighbours;

Coordination

100. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the Assistance Mission, as mandated by the Security Council in its resolution 2096 (2013), and stresses the continued importance of the central and impartial coordinating role of the United Nations in promoting a more coherent international engagement;

101. *Welcomes* the evolving presence of the Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, which ensures that the United Nations can fulfil its essential

[17] See E/CN.7/2012/17.

coordinating and support role, as requested by the Government of Afghanistan, security conditions permitting;

102. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the Assistance Mission is adequately resourced and protected by the Afghan authorities, with international support, as appropriate, to fulfil its mandate;

103. *Acknowledges* the central role played by the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board, stresses that the role of the Board is to support Afghanistan by, inter alia, monitoring and supporting the Kabul process and coordinating international assistance and development programmes, and welcomes further efforts to provide appropriate guidance and promote a more coherent international engagement;

104. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly every three months on developments in Afghanistan, as well as on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

105. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan".

55th plenary meeting
20 November 2013